



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 3, 2007

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Senate Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 259 relative to establishing state appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) is pleased to testify in support of Senate Bill 259, which establishes state appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards. Increased energy efficiency in consumer products lowers energy costs for New Hampshire businesses and consumers while reducing all forms of air emissions from electric power plants.

As you know, energy efficiency and conservation are critical elements of energy planning and policy. Energy efficiency and conservation are cost effective pollution prevention strategies that eliminate emissions of harmful pollutants to the air rather than just diminish them or shift their environmental impact to water or land. In addition, reducing energy demand, particularly during peak load in the summer season, results in significant energy cost savings.

The appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards proposed in Senate Bill 259 have already been adopted in several states including Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York, and are currently proposed in a number of other states including New Jersey. This type of multi-state action improves the baseline energy efficiency of consumer products in the market. New Hampshire state-wide energy efficiency programs, funded by a systems benefit charge on consumers electric bills, are intended to have the same effect on the market by, among other things, providing transitional rebates and incentives to consumers until energy efficient products are widely available at competitive prices. Improving consumer energy efficiency standards is a complementary way of changing the market to provide greater overall energy efficiency, eventually eliminating the need for rebates.

DES looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsors and supporters of this bill to enhance energy efficiency of consumer products. Greater efficiency reduces air pollution emissions and costs by reducing energy demand. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. Should you have further questions or need additional information please feel free to contact Robert R. Scott, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, rscott@des.state.nh.us) or Joanne Morin, Administrator Technical Programs (271-5552, jmorin@des.state.nh.us).

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: SB 259 sponsors